

Admission Criteria

Criteria for Palliative Care

The Veteran and family or significant other understand and agree to Palliative Care as an alternative to more aggressive, invasive forms of treatment. A clinical member of Palliative Care Consultation Team will briefly discuss the range of services available to the patient and his or her family regarding Palliative Care services.

Admission Criteria for Hospice Care

Using Medicare Hospice Criteria: A VA physician has determined the Veteran's life expectancy to be six months or less if the terminal illness runs its normal course.

The Veteran and/or family have treatment goals focused on comfort rather than cure.

The Veteran, family, or significant other have had the prognosis explained to them and have an understanding of the Veteran's condition. Advanced Directives are determined prior to admission.



For Admissions Information:

Susan Williams, RN

Case Manager
781-687-3124

Hospice Team

Howard Nachamie, MD

Betsy Gallant, ARNP

Hospice/Palliative Care NP
(781)687-3949

Karen Budnick, LICSW, ACHP

Advanced Certified Hospice and
Palliative Care Social Worker
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Kristen Dillon, PsyD, ABPP

Clinical Psychologist
Hospice and Palliative Care
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Palliative Care Services at the Bedford VA



Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital

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VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital

Purpose

The program provides for the coordination of comprehensive interdisciplinary care that optimizes quality of life and minimizes physical, psychological, and spiritual suffering associated with the dying process for patients and their families or significant others. It offers comfort rather than cure of the disease that is life-limiting and refractory to disease modifying treatment.



Policy

The Hospice and Palliative Care Program provides a Palliative Care approach to the care of eligible Veterans who have a diagnosed terminal illness and a projected limited life span. The program focuses on the management of distressing symptoms including pain, provision of psychosocial and spiritual support, and the application of comfort measures as an alternative to aggressive treatments.



Palliative and Hospice Team

- Palliative Care Coordinator
- Bereavement Counselors
- Dentist
- Dietician
- Occupational Therapist
- Chaplain
- Pharmacist
- Physicians
- Physical Therapist
- Psychologist
- Recreational Therapist
- Registered Nurses
- Registered Nurse Practitioner
- Rehabilitation Medicine Specialist
- Social Workers
- Volunteers

“You matter because you are. You matter to the last moment of your life, and we will do all we can, not only to help you die peacefully, but also to live until you die”

*-Dame Cecily
Sanders*

